

The

HONITON

Flyer

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AUTUMN 2026

THE FREE AREA GUIDE ABOUT HONITON FOR HONITON
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Welcome to The Honiton Flyer for Autumn 2026.

Our front cover photo shows a few camels, "off-duty" after their display in the ring at the annual Honiton Show, which took place on August 6th. Please see our full article on the show across **Pages 12 & 13**.

On **Page 4**, please find our Index of Advertisers. Then on **Page 16**, we have an update from Honiton Lions Club. On **Pages 18 & 19** we have a very informative article from the Friends of Honiton Station.

Across **Pages 20 & 21** you will find our maps of Honiton Town and the local area, to include the location of our advertisers, defibrillators and EV charging points. The Honiton Branch of The British Legion are looking forward to their Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday, but in the meantime draw our attention to a fund raising cycle ride, passing through Honiton on 22 September. More details on **Pages 24 & 25**.

Our local historian Terry Darrant revisits the Summer of 1976, and makes comparisons with this summer; a mere 50 years later! See more on **Pages 28 & 29**.

The Honiton Flyer are proud to support Honiton businesses in their new Community Loyalty Card Scheme – "Love Honiton". More details on **Pages 34 & 35**.

I hope you enjoy reading The Honiton Flyer. We are very grateful to our contributors – Martin Long from Friends of Honiton Station; Terry Darrant - local Lion and Honiton historian; and Paul Shaw of The British Legion.

Readers will notice a mix of existing and new advertisers offering – woodburners, chimney sweeping and winter fuel; healthcare and hardware; quiet coffee breaks, places to visit and shopping opportunities. Home improvements, estate agency, motor repairs, car & van hire, legal advice, nights out, personal care.

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With best wishes for the autumn season.

Anthony Buckle. EDITOR.

Email: honiton@theantiquetourist.com
Friday 28 August 2026.



Honiton Show 2026



Summer at Sidmouth Beach

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by logs direct

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The 135th Annual HONITON AGRICULTURAL SHOW

- 6th August 2026



The show is held in the countryside just outside Honiton, adjacent to the A30, on a 140 acre site, owned by Honiton & District Agricultural Association since 2003.

This is very much “country meets town” with a diverse range of trade stands and exhibitors. Accountants, solicitors, fashion retailers, jewellers, tiling suppliers, financial advisers, insurance brokers, conservation groups and auctioneers were “standing” beside agricultural machinery dealers, wastewater engineers, animal feed suppliers, country clothing specialists, veterinary practices, and major tractor dealerships.

Although cooler than of late, the sun shone and the showground soon filled with visitors; townspeople, farming families, exhibitors and some serious buyers looking for those “show-bargains” and special show offers. The sheep-shearing demonstration at the far end of the field was as popular as ever.

The animal exhibits were down in number, apparently due to a local outbreak of “blue-tongue” (BTV3), as understandably many local exhibitors kept away, for fear of spreading this deadly disease. Exhibitors from further afield – Dorchester, Somerset and Cornwall were still in evidence. One exhibitor from Mark in Somerset went home with 4 rosettes, including 2 “best in shows” for his ram!

The ringside was busy with many activities including a sheep dog demonstration, camel display, daredevil quadbikes, and horses and hounds from Cotleigh near Chard. Yarcombe Young Farmers and Honiton Young Farmers each fielded competing tug o’ war teams – mostly comprised of young ladies.

In the lower field were traditional crafts such as a wheelwright, thatching, blacksmithing and hurdle making displays; hound classes, merry-go-round, punch & judy, alpacas, along with a food hall, dog show and some great vintage tractors.



If you didn't attend this year, the 2027 Honiton Show should be on your “bucket-list”!



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HONITON *LIONS CLUB*

With one of the hottest, longest and driest summers in decades behind us one cannot help but reflect back to that of fifty years ago; that of 1976. At which time talks were rife in looking at expanding the local Lion branches of Axminster and Sidmouth into Honiton. With Lions International already helping provide audio equipment for deaf students at Honiton Primary School it was decided the town should have its own branch and the following year that is exactly what transpired. With 2027 marking Honiton Lion's 50th anniversary we are looking forward however, our 49th year is just as important and looking back over the summer months, the club has had a remarkably productive season filled with successful community events, hard work, and impactful local fundraising initiatives.

The summer kicked off with the Classic Car Show at Allhallows Field during the town's Market Charter Day celebrations. A grateful thank you goes to all the Lions and their partners who attended and helped out. Special thanks go to helpers Kyle and Riley Freemantle, Sheila Dare, and Ann Hibbert. Special recognition also goes to our Lions Ladies, who raised over £400 through their popular plant and book sale—a fantastic contribution to our charitable efforts.

More recently, the Club has approved several key community donations and funding pledges:

- **Lions International Blood Research Appeal (LIBRA):** A donation of £500 to support on-going blood research initiatives.
- **Royal British Legion (RBL) Standalone Memorial:** The Royal British Legion has been raising funds to create a standalone memorial to honour local individuals missing from Honiton memorial. The Lions have agreed to pledge financial backing to help bridge their shortfall in supporting this project.
- **Honiton Primary School PTA Library Project:** To support improvements to the school library, the Club agreed to a £500 pledge to help

get the project off the ground

Rounding out the summer season, the Lions were out in force supporting the Honiton Hill Rally at Smeatharpe over the August bank holiday weekend. Thank you to everyone in the community who came out to support us throughout the summer—your generosity makes all of our local projects possible!

Be sure to get your raffle tickets for our annual draw in September.



*Charter Day 2026
Prize being awarded for best classic car.*



A visit from 1st Vice District Governor Lion Andrew Burnard and Lion Emma Burnard from Saltash Tamar Lions at our last meeting.

As always if you would like to find out more about Lions Club International and in particular the Honiton Lions Club please give president Brian Richards a call on 01404 43738 or 07966173828 or brian.richards@honitonlions.org.uk

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The Friends of **HONITON** Station

Bit by bit, the railway system in this country is being re-nationalised after 30 years in private hands. Already, our local train service is effectively nationalised, although it will not formally become part of a company called Great British Railways until the necessary legislation is passed.

But it won't be the first time that ownership of the railways has changed hands. This has happened repeatedly since the creation of passenger railways 200 years ago. And if you look around, it is still possible to see signs of its history.

The first railways were built not by government but by private companies, who created lines in what was often a haphazard way, overlapping or duplicating other existing lines. Building a railway was a speculative venture in which fortunes were made and lost. Our local

line, which opened in 1860, terminated at Queen Street in Exeter, rather than at St Davids, as that station was owned by another company.

Steadily, many railway companies merged, and following the Railways Act of 1921, the London and South Western Railway which had built our railway, became part of the huge Southern Railway. There is still evidence of the influence of Southern (both before and after nationalisation) in the green branding at several stations in the area, including at Feniton and the line to Okehampton.

When the railway was nationalised by the new Labour Government in 1947, our local service then became part of British Railways, with its lion logo and later British Rail with its double arrow. Despite BR being

abolished decades ago, the road sign that represents a station still uses this logo.

And it was this company who struggled with the fact that, arguably, the network was too big, a result of all that Victorian speculation. Well before the dreaded Dr. Beeching got to work, loss-making lines were being closed. Once he got his hands on the network, many more much-loved lines were culled, including our local branch lines to Seaton, Sidmouth and Lyme Regis. You can still see the remains of the old stations at Seaton Junction and Sidmouth.

For many locals, however, it is not British Rail that they will remember, but something called Network South East, with its red, white and blue branding. Having taken over responsibility for our service in 1986, only eight years later it was broken up as the railway was prepared for privatisation.

The legacy of Network South East, however, still affects how we use the railway. The map of the old network defines some of the complex rules of when and how we can use some rail cards. And for us, it was this company

which ordered the rolling stock which still operates our service and which is likely to be needed for at least another 10 years.

If you travel by train, you can still trace the history of the companies that came next, with some still carrying the red and white livery of South West Trains, while others have long been re-painted in the blue and grey of SWR.

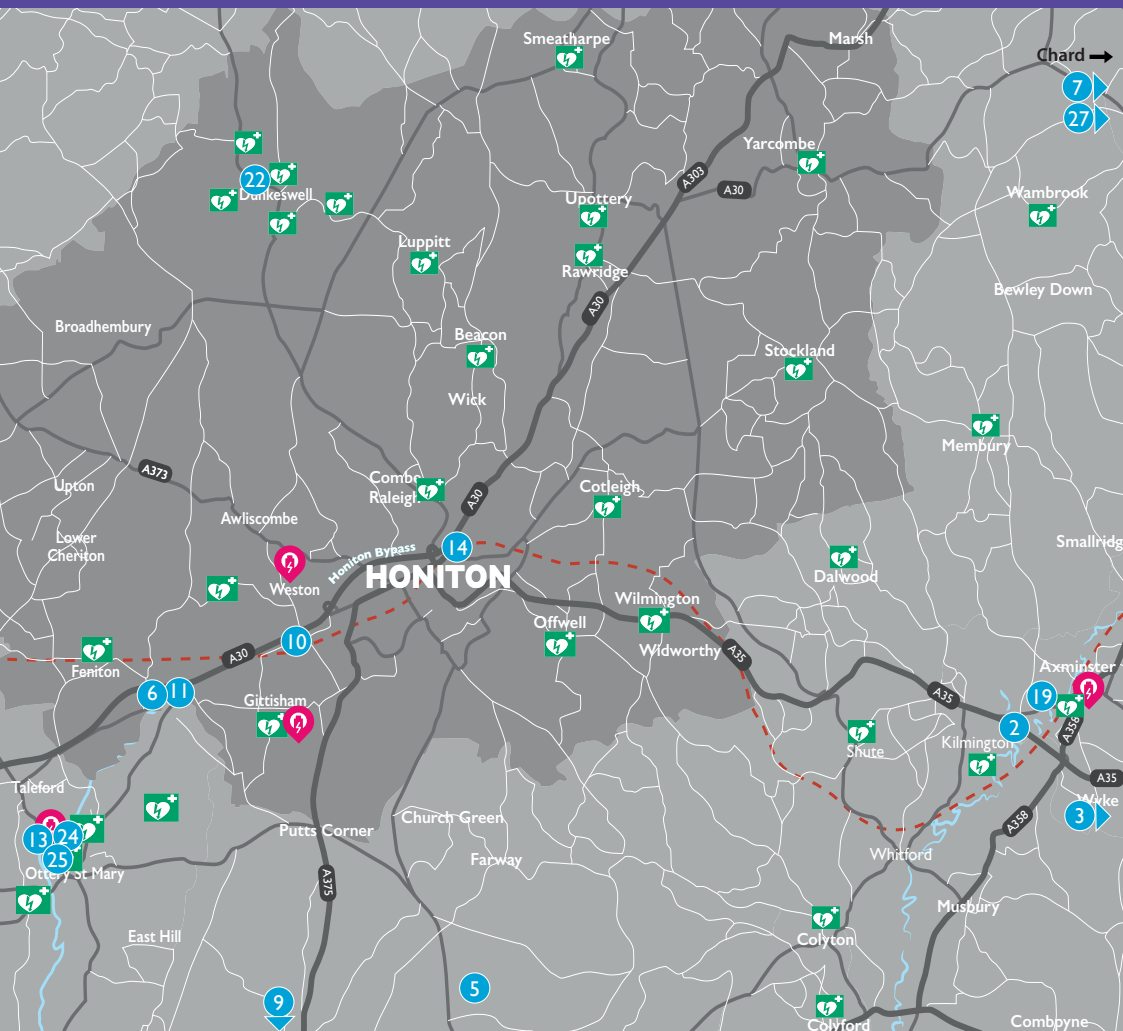
Now another new dawn heralds with Great British Railways the latest operator. Some things will be familiar, however: the old BR double arrow logo is coming back and, inevitably perhaps, the dominant colours will be red, white and blue.

Martin Long

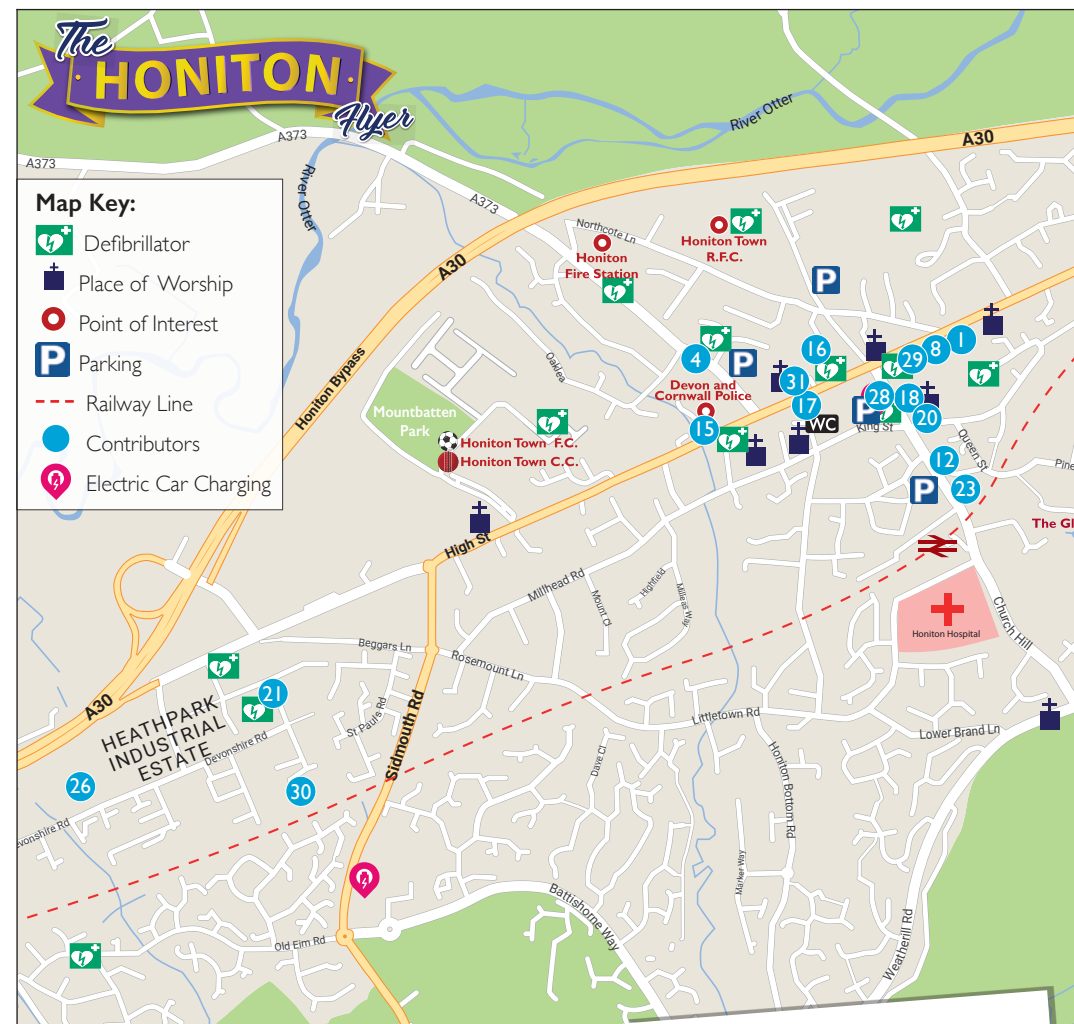


To read the latest issue of the Friends of Honiton Station newsletters, or for more information, visit www.friendsofhonitonstation.org.uk.





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HONITON RBL GEARS UP FOR POPPY APPEAL AND REMEMBRANCE TIDE

As autumn approaches, volunteers at the Honiton Branch of The Royal British Legion are stepping up preparations for two of the most significant dates in the town's civic calendar: the annual Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Tide.

This year's National Poppy Appeal launches on Saturday 24 October 2026, with Honiton marking the occasion beside the War Memorial, where local collectors and supporters will gather to begin the campaign. The Appeal remains one of the Legion's most recognisable efforts, raising vital funds to support serving personnel, veterans, and their families.

Attention then turns to Remembrance Sunday, when Honiton's traditional Parade

and Service will once again bring the community together. The parade will form up next to Wetherspoon's in New Street, stepping off at 14:20 Hours before making its way to the Memorial. The Service will begin at 14:45 Hours, offering residents a moment of reflection and gratitude. A wet-weather plan has been arranged at St Paul's Church, though space there is limited. Ahead of these commemorations, Honiton will also play host to a leg of the Cycle Ride along the Trafalgar Way, an event celebrating the historic route used to carry news of the Battle of Trafalgar.

Cyclists and supporters will gather at the Con Club on Tuesday 22 September at 18:00 Hours, and everyone is warmly invited to attend. Further details can be found on the event poster.

With a busy season ahead, the Honiton RBL is encouraging residents to take part, show support, and help uphold the traditions that mean so much to the town.



<https://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/honiton>

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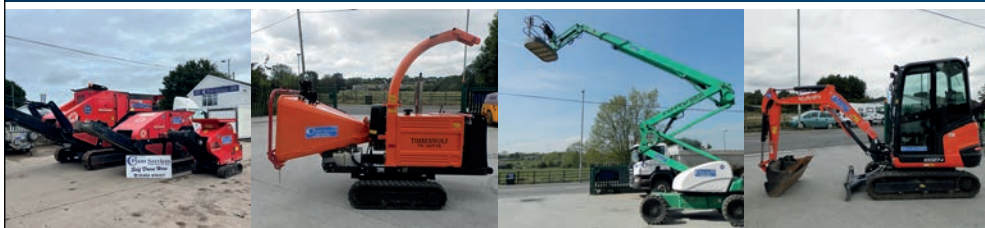
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A TALE OF TWO HEATWAVES

Summer 2026 seemed like the long-lost twin of 1976, bearing the same familiar heat but with a fiercer tenacity!

Exactly fifty years ago, whilst Honiton was baking in the original summer of summers Mr & Mrs Snell were retiring from the Three Tuns, Mumfords Garage were moving to bigger premises at Turks Head, a commando abseiled down St Pauls, NSS Newsagents acquired two more premises in town, and a family of four could get into Honiton Hill Rally, then at Stockland, for £1.40! However, as today, everyone was suffering with the temperatures and longing for a bit of that old British classic... rain!

Local weather records kept by Major J.M. Brierley in nearby Kilmington recorded June 1976 as the warmest month since his measurements began in 1954, with maximum shade temperatures soaring to 93°F

and average daily peaks reaching 72.9°F. Total rainfall for June was a meagre 0.24 inches— less than ten per cent of the monthly normal. Across the district, the unrelenting heat reshaped daily routines, school schedules, community traditions, and civic affairs.

At Honiton Primary School, headmaster Mr. Dalton felt compelled to cancel a major planned outing to Longleat to protect the children from heat exhaustion and illness. Inside the school, classrooms effectively turned into ovens because recently repainted windows had stuck tight and could not be opened. In response, teachers conducted as many lessons as possible outdoors in the shade. Public recreation facilities faced similar pressures; queues at the Honiton Swimming Pool grew so long that the executive committee declared an emergency, limiting visitors to 3/4-hour sessions to handle the crowds.

Whilst there were talks of a possible Butlins coming to the

old Heathpark army ground a major outdoor event, taking place there, was profoundly impacted by the weather. At the British Legion Rally at the camp, where temperatures on the parade ground topped 100°F, Honiton Mayor Ron Gigg gamely donned a thick army roll-neck sweater, quilted jacket, and padded shooting coat for a target match. Despite thousands attending the rally, members of the Honiton women's section saw hundreds of painstaking sandwiches, rolls, and cooked meats go largely uneaten as sweltering visitors demanded soft drinks and squash instead.



The severe drought created unexpected financial and structural headaches for local property owners. At Marwood House on the High Street, extreme dry conditions caused prominent cracks in the historic building's walls, prompting the council to step in with preservation grant funding for repairs. Meanwhile, water conservation attempts led to frustration: Robert Davidson, landlord of the Angel Hotel (now Costa), successfully reduced his six-month water consumption from 443 to 321 cubic metres to help the drought effort, only to find himself penalized with a higher minimum standing charge by South West Water. Despite both seasons being nearly a lifetime apart the parallels remain as 'hot' a topic today as they were then!

by Terry Darrant



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Something positive is happening in Honiton!

Local independent shops and small businesses have joined forces to create ****Love Honiton****, a community-led group with one shared aim – to help our Town Centre thrive.

With the message **'Our Town. Our Future. Our Honiton.'**, we're working together to encourage people to shop locally, improve our

surroundings and create a welcoming Town Centre we can all be proud of.

One of our first

initiatives was the Love Honiton Community Loyalty Card Scheme, which encouraged people to support participating local businesses by collecting stamps for the chance to win a Seasonal Community Hamper. The scheme was a great way to bring local



businesses and shoppers together and celebrate the importance of supporting our High Street.

We're continuing to build on this with new ideas and community projects. We're also working alongside Honiton Town Council to brighten the town with hanging baskets, pots and floral displays, while businesses are helping to keep their shop fronts tidy, weed-free and litter-free.

But ****Love Honiton is about more than businesses – it's about our whole community.****

We'd love residents to get involved, share ideas and support the town they call home. By working together, we can help make Honiton an even better place to shop, visit, work and live.

Follow ****Love Honiton**** on Facebook for the latest news, events, projects and updates.

Have an idea? we would love to hear from you, pop us a message on facebook.



Together, Let's create a Honiton we can be proud of

****Shop local. Get involved. Love Honiton.****



Keeps Money Local

Supporting local shops helps keep money circulating within Honiton.



Supports Local Jobs

Local businesses create jobs and opportunities for people in our community.



Helps Businesses Grow

Every purchase helps independent businesses thrive and invest locally.



Stronger Community

Shopping locally builds connections and brings residents together.



Environmental Impact

Buying locally can mean shorter journeys, fewer deliveries and lower emissions.



Keeps Honiton Thriving

A busy, vibrant town centre makes Honiton a better place to live, work and visit.

SUDOKU 1

		8	4					3
9		2	1				5	
	4			6		8		
		7					1	
4								
	2				3			
			9			3		
3			6	1		7		
8							2	

Level: **Easy**

Date: _____

Start time: _____

Time to solve: _____

SUDOKU 2

							6	
6	2		3		9			
		4						
			6	1	5		9	
5				2				3
		8					4	
3	9	6					8	
			1		8			2

Level: **Hard**

Date: _____

Start time: _____

Time to solve: _____

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8	1	5	7	4	6	2	9	
3	9	4	6	1	2	7	8	5
2	7	6	8	5	3	4	1	
6	2	1	8	9	3	5	7	4
4	8	7	5	1	6	3	2	9
5	3	2	6	7	4	1	8	9
1	4	3	9	7	8	2	5	6
9	7	1	4	5	2	3	6	8

SUDOKU 1

SUDOKU 2

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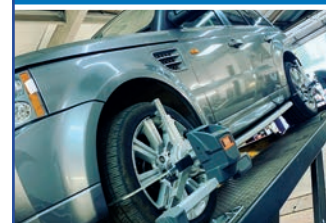
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